UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

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CHRIS HAWKES INDUCTED INTO THE USKA HALL OF FAME

by Eddie B. Bethea, Jr.

There are many competitors and spectators alike who will always wonder what it takes to be inducted into the United States Karate Alliance Hall Of Fame. **Chris Hawkes** will tell you that it takes perseverance, discipline, dedication, and much more. At the 2001 USKA World Championships, Chris was inducted into the HOF and is perhaps one of the youngest individuals to be inducted at age 24. It has been, and is a rarity for anyone to be inducted at that young age. However, he is and has been a mover and a shaker in both his community and in the martial arts.

Many would say that it was a shoo in for Chris to be inducted because of the notoriety of his uncle, **Hanshi James Hawkes**, with whom he trains. Well, they should be informed right now, that this young man did it all on his own. He was raised mostly without the guidance of a father, and has kept himself on the straight and narrow to achieve goals that others have placed before him as well as those that he chosen for himself. His unique ability to cope in different situations and his sincere personality which makes him so personable, has helped him to be a light unto the path for many others to travel and/or follow. He has persevered some hardships that others would have easily succumbed, in dealing with a father who suffers from the ills of the Vietnam War. Chris is an individual who wants nothing handed to him, but emphasizes

that all things are appreciated and are valued more when they are earned. He has been a Black Belt since July 1990 and has been a force to reckon with ever since that time. The tournament record that he maintains will be hard for anyone else to match. Not only that, he has been one of the leading tournament officials where ever he goes. He leads by example, and a very good one.

As said previously, Chris' accomplishments have been many and he is not one to stand and wait for recognition. He is too busy being a mover and shaker to stand and wait for anything. As a high school student, he co-founded the Highland High School Karate Club. From that point he has continued to add to his long and enduring list of accomplishments. He won his first World Championship in 1994 and has amassed numerous "firsts", and Grand Championships. As he looks over the competition arena he is already saying that it will just be a matter of time before he will be there to add one more to his list.

Chris Hawkes is certainly a Hall Of Famer, and as he comes aboard, he is embraced by some of the greatest competitors and teachers to ever wear a karate gi. His youth, vigor, and vitality will be a shot in the arm to The United States Karate Alliance Hall Of Fame. A young man of this stature will assuredly continue to be a pacesetter and fill the hearts of many as they come to karate tournaments.

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If you are competing at an Alliance sanctioned tournament (Alliance Rules), and your required division is being divided leaving you with less than three competitors, please notify the person bracketing your division. If this does not solve the bracketing problem, notify the tournament promoter. If your division runs with less than three competitors because of a division split, and you have notified the preceding people, please contact headquarters in the week following the tournament to inquire as to the status of your points for that tournament.

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